

Sinclair
Broadcasting's
decision to force
their stations to
air an anti-Kerry
documentary days
before the election
is a clear example
of the dangers of
media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the
public airwaves free
of charge, and is
obligated by law to
serve the public
interest. But when
large companies
control the
airwaves, we get
more of what's good
for the bottom line
and less of what we
need for our
democracy. We need
protections for
journalists who
tackle stories that
are currently
de-facto off limits
because they
challenge the
interests of the
powerful--stories
that expose the
working of the
military industrial
complex, stories
that investigate
corporate fraud, and
most importantly,
stories that show
why having a press
free from corporate
influence is
essential in a
country trying to
lead by example in
the modern world.

Sinclair's actions
show why we need to
strengthen media
ownership rules, not
weaken them. They
show why the license
renewal process
needs to involve
more than a returned
postcard. Thank you.

John Stanik